

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 213158

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP

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S/S-O:KDSCOTT

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S E C R E T STATE 213158

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT DAMASCUS 4833 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BEIRUT

TEL AVIV AUG 21, 1978

QUOTE: S E C R E T DAMASCUS 04833

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY

SUBJECT: EMBASSY BEIRUT CONTACTS WITH SYRIANS

REF: BEIRUT 4806

1. DURING CALL ON DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS RIAD
SIAGE ON AUGUST 21, I RAISED FOR HIS CONSIDERATION
CHARGE KINSOLVING'S SUGGESTION THAT GOS DESIGNATE ONE
OF ITS KEY OFFICIALS IN LEBANON TO ESTABLISH DIRECT
CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR PARKER AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS.
I SAID THIS WAS MERELY INFORMAL PROPOSAL AND ONE WHICH
WE THOUGHT MIGHT BE USEFUL IN ENABLING OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS
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TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND COMPARE NOTES "ON THE GROUND" IN
LEBANON. WHILE WE IN DAMASCUS ENJOYED GOOD CONTACTS,
WE WERE NOT CLOSE TO THE SCENE OF FAST-BREAKING
DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON.

2. SIAGE FIRST ASKED WHETHER WE HAD IN MIND A MILITARY
OFFICER. I RESPONDED THAT THE SYRIAN CONTACT COULD BE

EITHER MILITARY OR CIVILIAN, DEPENDING UPON SYRIAN PREFERENCE. SIAGE NOTED THAT SYRIAN FORCES IN LEBANON ARE UNDER THE ADF, IMPLYING THAT THE PROPER CONTACT MIGHT BE ADF COMMANDING OFFICER. I SAID THAT I FULLY APPRECIATED THIS BUT GIVEN COMMON SYRIAN-US OBJECTIVES IN LEBANON, A DIRECT SYRIAN-AMERICAN CONTACT SEPARATE FROM ADF CHANNELS MIGHT BE HELPFUL.

3. SIAGE SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE THIS IDEA UNDER ADVISEMENT. SEELYE
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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